

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/05/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

2139 Whitewater Circle
Billings, MT 59102

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

FILED

DEC 05 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Members of the Court:

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons: The first amendment of the Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion (and what constitutes freedom if a person cannot say what they believe?) We have freedom of speech???? A lawyer could be disbarred because what he believes differs from what someone else believes????

If a person said, "I believe marriage is only between people of the same gender," could that be discriminating against the person who believe that marriage is only between one man and one woman"???? Could we not justify making that a rule also then???? If gender identity should be protected, then the person who disagrees should also be protected. Differing of belief is not a "hate" crime, or anyone who disagrees about anything could then be guilty of a "hate" crime. Disagreement is not the same as hate.

Please do not force a person to lose their livelihood because of what he or she believes. I respectfully request that you not pass this rule.

Sincerely yours,
Louise Warner
Louise Warner